In Co-Op Publication

Sweeney Featured

Joe Sweeney

from "COUNTRY LIGHT" Publication of Cent. Va. Elec. Lovingston, Virginia

Appomattox County, one of the counties served by Central Virginia Electric Cooperative, has many claims to fame. "The Gentlemen's Peace" made April 9, 1865 at Old Appomattox Courthouse in the parlor of Wilmer McLean, reunited America and set the stage for the modern era of world leadership. Before and since that event there are great dates to remember, great leaders to salute. But, this is a story of Joe Sweeney.

Sweeney Cottage

Joe Sweeney, inventor of the five-string banjo and a famous minstrel in pre-Civil War days, used to visit relatives in the 'Sweeney Cottage' (above) which still stands on Route 24 east of Appomattox Court House National Historical Park.
The Sweeney family is remembered for many different reasons. One interesting note is that Mrs. Sweeney, (probably wife of Joe's nephew), was a good seamstress. She made the wedding dress for Ola Turns, who became Mrs. Joel Walker Patteson, mother of "Brightleaf", Mrs. Calvin Robinson, and the wife of the author of the article below. The late Mrs. Patteson's other daughters are Leugenia Patteson Doss (Mrs. Lewis); Gladys Patteson Johnson (Mrs. Harry.)

Joe Sweeney invented the five-string banjo and a famous minstrel in pre-Civil War days, used to visit relatives in the Sweeney Cottage (above) which still stands on Route 24 east of Appomattox Court House National Historical Park.

Joe Sweeney played the five-string banjo and is the recognized originator of American Minstrelsy. His international fame carried him to a command performance for Queen Victoria in England and won companions such as Dan Emmett, author of Dixie. And, the Banjo lives on as one of the greatest musical instruments. He belongs in everyone's musical hall of fame.

Joel Walker Sweeney was born in 1810, alongside the Appomattox River, in what was then Buckingham County. Appomattox did not become a county until 1845. His parents owned a sizeable plantation and a mill but Joe had dreams of music. In 1831 he invented what some say is the only major musical instrument ever created in America. He did it by adding a fifth, or thumb string, to a crude "ban-jar" brought by the Negro from Africa, and by adding the control mechanism from the violin and then he showed the world what could be done with the classical product of his genius. Gifted as an actor, he was a ventriloquist, bird mimic, comedian and dancer. He could stage a fabulous one-man show, but he did not have to, for his brothers, Sam and Dick Sweeney had tremendous talent and soon Sweeney had a troupe touring from New York to Texas. Joe was a craftsman with the violin and also a composer who contributed many original songs.

Alas, Joe died October 24, 1860, just before the Civil War started. Dick died shortly thereafter, but Sam carried on the musical heritage and became the favorite of Confederate General J. E. B. Stuart, and Gen. Robert E. Lee visited Stuart's camp and said . . . "such fine music." Sam Sweeney died a year before the War ended, but not before the North had decided that music was a potent factor in war and organized over six hundred bands to provide the troops with music.

Joe is buried in a family plot, his gravesite modestly marked, thanks to the interest and efforts of Col. George H. Collins, a banjo enthusiast, who tracked down many Sweeney documents, playbills and treasured relics. The writer has a violin autographed by a member of the original Sweeney band. And the original banjo is in the Los Angeles, California County Museum. Joe's banjo became so popular he gave it to a Baltimore instrument maker, F. J. Henning, to make copies and when Henning died in California his family gave it to the famous Museum. Many of us wish it possible to return it to Central Virginia and that Appomattox might supplement its McLean House with an American Folk Museum. But, that would take a lot of doing.

But, the Sweeney cabin still stands; the birthplace and graveside of one of our greatest composers and musical inventors repose quietly here in Central Virginia and whenever you listen to a five-stringer, whenever you hear Old Dan Tucker, Lorena or the great songs of yesterday, remember that "music hath charms" and Sweeney, of Appomattox was right up there with the greats of all time.

Sweeney enthusiasts hope for erection of a historical marker on Route 26 opposite the Sweeney homesites and gravesite. This well-traveled highway is within sight of such National Park Service attractions as the restored Old Appomattox Courthouse Village and Courthouse, the remains of the tulip poplar tree where Gen. Lee's Farewell Address was read to his Army, Lee's last Camp, Gen. Grant's Headquarters, and an attractive picnic area is in walking distance at the recently enlarged bridge over the Appomattox River. Many history-minded friends in Lynchburg have helped assemble the Sweeney material, the banjo is still going strong, and when we hear the current slogan "Virginia Is For Lovers" that surely includes lovers of "such fine music" and holds promise that Central Virginia will cooperate to memorialize this valuable shrine and historic attraction.

By: Calvin Robinson, Appomattox, Va.
Retired Publisher of the Times-Virginian and long-time collector of Sweeney items.

How It Used To Be In Appomattox

Stuart Farrar, of Pamplin, happened upon a shelf of Lynchburg directories among the records in the court house, Lynchburg. In the oldest directory there, 1887-1888 he found several pages of interesting information about this county back when "Rose Bower", "Nebraska", "Reedy Springs" etc. were post office locations. 'Nebraska", of course was the present county seat,the Town of Appomattox. Population in 1887 was 10,080 with 5,153 white and 4,927 colored. County seat was listed as Appomattox CH (the old village, now Appomattox Court House National Historical Park) with a population of 100.

Average assessed value of lands in 1887-1888 was $4.13 per acre. The Circuit Court of the Fifth Circuit met on the 15th of March and 15th of Sept. with Judge John D. Horsley and George T. Peers as clerk.

Henry T. Parish was county judge and Mr. Peers was circuit clerk and County Court met at the Court House Thursday after the 1st Monday in each month.

County officers 84 years ago were T. B. Bryant, sheriff; A.S. Swan, surveyor, J. R. Frightin, Treasurer; George W. Abbitt, commissioner of the revenue and W. C. Franklin, commonwealth's attorney.

The supervisor board, then as now, was composed of three representatives, one from each district: Wm. White was chairman together with D. H. Marshall and H. E. Gilliam.

County magistrates were A. Womack, C. H. Gilliam, Pamplin City; Jas. A. Walker, Tower Hill; N. W. Owen, Oakville; G. W. Cardwell, Spout Spring; C.B. Bloxton, Reedy Spring; Charles T. Moses, Nebraska (community of present day Appomattox . . . . the "Depot."

There were nine attorneys within the county at that time: T. S. Bocock, Tower Hill; J. P. L. Fleshman, Chap; W. C. Frasklin and E. R. Woodson, Pamplin City and in the village of Appomattox Court House: H.D. Flood, H. T. Parish, R. B. Poore and C. H. Sackett.

An iron mine at Nutall was listed and the Merrill & Ford concern in Pamplin City, as "Pipe Manufacturers - Smoking."

Looking out for the peoples' health were physicians "A through W" Drs. W.H. Abbitt H. C. Babcock, E. H. Grigg, W. N. Horsley, C. S. Morton, R. A. North, J. Randolph, D. Mott Robertson, D. P. Robertson, B. S. Vawter and William White.

Three gentlemen were listed as saddle and harnessmakers; Edward Mayberry at Spring Mills; Peter Pendleton, Pamplin City and Thomas A. Smith Appomattox C. H.

For supplies of "Sassafras Oil" there were R. F. Burke and Co., Nebraska; John P. Hughes, Oakville and J. B. Merryman, Appomattox C. H.

Miss Bettie Johns, Hixburg, was listed under "Schools, Colleges, Etc." together with the notation that "there are 26 white and 15 colored public schools in this county with C. H. Childton, Spout Spring, as superintendent.

Two tanners plied their trade: John W. Harwood, Pamplin City and Henry Layne, Tower Hill. Four undertakers were listed as well as five dealers in wood.

A list of 'Principal Farmers' contained an entire page in the old directory -. These farmers are listed from the communities of Appomattox C. H., Bent Creek, Chap. Evergreen Fore's Store, Hixburg, Mineral and Nebraska.

And so the old records go on . . . . an interesting account of people and communities right here . . . . "right" long ago.

A penny stamp no doubt could "send the word" to any of the county's SEVENTEEN post offices: Appomattox C. H., Bent Creek, Chap, Evergreen, Fore's Store, Hixburg, Mineral, Nebraska, Oakville, Old Pilot, Pamplin City, Reedy Springs, Rose Bower, Spanish Oaks, Spout Spring, Spring Mills, Tower Hill.

Almost any one of us might like to have some of those starwart farmers, merchants and other professional men and women among us again, but who can truly say that "they were the good old days." Speaking editorially, of course, THESE are the GOOD DAYS even if one doesn't particularly like frozen dinners or some of the current TV offerings. . . Penicillin, jet travel, air conditioning, modern automobiles, Rescue Squads, radio stereophonic sound and air pant suited comfort for the women are only a few of the many blessings of 1971. Anyone care to argue about that?

Many trades and professions were represented in those days. There were thirteen coach and wagonmakers, two dentists, eleven "Distillers", two druggists, two florists and twenty-four merchants offering "General Merchandise'. Four hotels served the county: D. W. Gills, Pamplin City; R. B. Harvey, Spring Mills, J. Walton McKinney, Appomattox Court House and J. R. Alwood, Nebraska.

Land Agents included Dr. W. A. Hoseley, Mineral and A.B. White and Co., Bent Creek. Farmers could have their corn and flour ground at any one of thirteen mills, including mills operated or owned by A. F. Anderson, Appomattox C. H. J.J. Carson, Spanish Oaks; J. J. Carson and Bro., Oakville; J. R. Franklin and Willis Ligon & Son, Pamplin City; J. W. Hancock, Nebraska. There were at least two mills at Spring Mills - - - T. W. Harvey & Co. and J. Henrick. W. D. Hix had a mill at Hixburg. In the Tower Hill community, Wm. Johnson had a mill as did J. C. Meggenson and Albert Thornhill. A. B. White and Co. had a mill at Bent Creek.

Millwork - sawing and planing could be done at Spring Mills, Bent Creek, Tower Hill, Fore's Store (by J. H. Forbes). Also, Evergreen Spring Mills, Tower Hill, Chap, Oakville, Mineral, Hixburg and Spanish Oaks. J. L. Tolley, Pamplin City, was listed as a "Millwright."

Food Conference Set For Sept. 21

Information on getting the most for the family food dollar will be given at the Governor's Food Conference from 9 - 12 in the morning and 7:30 -9:30 in the evening, Tuesday, September 21, at the Virginia Baptist Hospital Auditorium, Lynchburg, Va.

Miss Lelia Mayton, Appomattox Extension Agent, is serving as chairman for the meeting open to all citizens to assist in the wiser selection, purchase, and preparation of food. Representatives of 10 states and local departments and organizations are cooperating with plans for approximately 20 such meetings throughout the state.

The state groups include the Virginia Department of Education, the State Department of Welfare and Institutions, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the Virginia Division of Planning and Community Affairs, the Virginia Retail Merchants Association, the Virginia Department of Health, and the Extension Division of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Also assisting are the Virginia Council on Health and Medical Care, The Office of Economic Opportunity, the Dairy Council of Central and Eastern Virginia and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The district meetings are the outgrowth of last December's Governor's Conference on the Food Dollar in Roanoke, in June, sessions to train leaders for these district conferences were held at Virginia Tech, with Dr. W. E. Skelton, Dean of its Extension Division, as chairman.

In addition to Miss Lelia Mayton, those on the planning committee for the local food conference include: Anna B. Elcan, Extension Agent, Campbell County; Mrs. Marian Barnett, Welfare Service Specialist; Thomas L. Smedley, Executive Director, Central Va. Planning District; Mrs. J. W. Brumer, Consumer Education Committee, Amherst County; Mrs. W. L. Farmer, Consumer Education Committee, Campbell County; Mrs. Lynwood Holton, Executive Director, Roanoke Council on Human Relations; Mrs. Carey Mrs. Lelia Mayton, Extension Agent, Appomattox; Mrs. Creamer, Home Economist, Campbell Council; Helen C. Extension Agent, Lynchburg; Mrs. Victoria Assistant Supervisor, Program Coordinator, Hills Mobile Home Park; Home Economist, Hamlet, Extension Agent, Lynchburg; Mrs. Ola Hatcher, Extension Agent, County.

Planners for District Family Food Conference with Mrs. Lynwood Holton during a meeting at Mansion in Richmond, July 14, 1971. Mrs. Holton, extreme right, Campbell County Extension, presided the Program Committee for District 10. Other are Mr. Robert Ashcraft, Planner, Fifth Planning District Commission, Roanoke; Mrs. willette Mercer, Extension Agent and Chairman 11th District Extension Agent and Chairman of the 4th District Conference; and Mrs. Elcan.

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OAKVILLE

Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Martin had a cook out at their home Saturday evening in honor of their two sons, James and Keith. All their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were present. It was around forty in all. Every body had a good time and wished them many more birthdays.

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Marshall, Kathy and Doug attended the Marshall-Caldwell reunion Sunday at the W. O. W. building. Jimmy's mother came wiht them home and attended the funeral of Mr. Lawrence Hudson on Monday.

The children of James Martin celebrated his birthday on Sunday with a luncheon at the home of his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Wilcox and Sherry. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. James Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Martin, Lewis and Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Martin, Roxanne, Bobby and Robin, Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Moore, Kevin, Audrey and Lynette, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Martin and Ethel Lee Robertson. A wonderful day was enjoyed by all.

Mr. Harold Martin spent the week end at home with his wife and boys. He returned to the Medical Care Center on Monday.

The Home Dem. Club met with Mrs. Wiley Moore Thursday afternoon with good attendance.

Richard Martin of Richmond spent the week end with his parents Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Martin, Jr.

Those visiting Mr. and Mrs. Roland Smith Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Joel W. Smith and son, Joel, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Moore and son, Barry of Lynchburg, Mr. and Mrs. Terry Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Coleman, Mr. and Mrs. Emmit Day, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Day, Miss Teresa Letchford of Appomattox.

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PORTS
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...attox Wins 28-0 ...Buckingham

...omattox Raiders ...gain in the second ...two touchdowns and ...more in the third ...the best Buckingham ...school 28-0 in the ...er for both teams, ...district game play-...attox last Friday

...omattox most of the ...gained the ball on the ...control the game in ...ground plays and ...time times. Buck-...limited to only 30 ...plays.

...took a Buching-...late in the first ...a 15 yard return set ...Buckingham 28 ...quarter ended 0-0 ...on the two. Appo-...on the six-...the second quarter ...left in the half at ...Mike Sancock set ...out and Jimmy ...added the extra point ...

...kicked off and ...started on their 17 ...Carter plays had ...recovered a Buck-...on the Buching-...Jimmy Chandler, Wayne ...good for 10 yards to ...McCormick hit for ...Buckingham then ...the score from the ...Chandler again added ...with 7:58 left in ...16-0 lead.

...quarter it was ...Appomattox took the ...to 10 and got a 28 ...the 38. They kept ...the ground and ...in 16 plays, 15 ...on rushes, and ...left in the third ...Mike McCormick ...the one yard line. ...up 5:06 of that ...Chandler hit the ex-...point for a 21-0 ...kicked off and ...started on their ...the and after two ...and a pass they ...McCormick, ...scoring play of the ...ball on his own ...beautiful block-...teammates weaved ...70 yards and a ...with :43 seconds left ...Jimmy Chand-...his fourth strai-...for a 28-0 lead.

The Raiders then used reserves freely in the fourth quarter as they still kept the visitors under control and they never had any real threat going.

Mike McCormick was the leading ground gainer as he rushed for 68 yards in 15 carries for the Raiders. He had over a 100 in kickoff and punt returns also. Jimmy Chandler, besides kicking extra points, rushed for 40 yards on 10 carries and caught one pass. Robby Layne rushed for 37 yards on five carries as he played only the fourth quarter at quarterback.

The leading ground gainer for Buckingham was Daniel Carter with 37 yards on six plays. Ronnie Sutler and Frank Braxton had 18 yards each rushing.

The Appomattox defense was spearheaded by Lee Conner and Billy Guthrie. Conner had eight unassisted tackles and Guthrie had a fumble recovery and also quite a few tackles. Mike McCormick had a pass interception as the first half ended and also one as the game ended, but that was offset by a penalty.

Mike Jones and Dexter Cox led the Buckingham defense along with Paul Boyers who recovered a fumble in the fourth quarter.

The Raider defense kept Buckingham deep in their own territory all night and did not allow Buckingham to cross the 50 but two times.

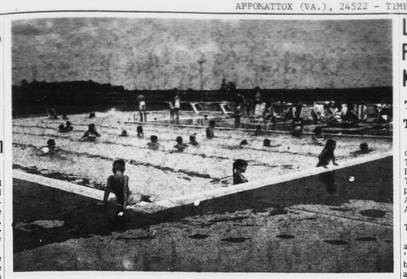
Appomattox takes on Brookville Friday night.

Statistics

	Appomattox	Buckingham
First Downs	16	4
Yards Rushing	165	75
Passing	3-3	3-9
Yards Passing	7	27
Tumbles Lost	1	1
Total Yardage	172	102

Buckingham	0	0	0	0	- 0
Appomattox	0	6	6	16	- 28

A—Hancock, one yard run, Chandler kick.
A—Simpson, one yard run, Chandler kick.
A—McCormick, one yard run, Chandler kick.
A—McCormick, 70 yard punt return. Chandler kick.



'Last Day Of Summer'

Monday was the "last day of summer" so far as swimmers and sun-bathers at the Falling River Country Club were concerned and they really took advantage of it! The olympic-size pool opened for the season Memorial Day and closed on Monday, Labor Day, ending with a delightful picnic supper for club members and their families. W. W. Blyth (Captain, Virginia State Police, retired) who was pool manager again this year, reports that they have had a very successful summer.

PAMPLIN

Mrs. Jessie Walker Hatch, of Norfolk, is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Doug Jennings. She visited friends in town last Friday.

Pvt. Malcolm Inge is home on leave from Fort Gordon.

Miss Karen Smith will leave next week for The University of Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Berry, of Chevy Chase, Md., and Mrs. H. C. Bradshaw and daughter, Elizabeth, of Durham, N.C., were guest last week of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Cunningham.

Mr. Larry Elder left Sunday for Bluefield College, Bluefield, where he will be a student.

Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Childress and family have returned from a vacation at Cape Hatteras, N.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Ham, of Augusta, Ga., and Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Davis, of Fayetteville, N.C., and Mrs. J. J. Williams, of Hollister, N.C., spent last week end here with Mrs. E. N. Cunningham and attended the Ham - Welch wedding last Sunday.

Mr. Berry Cook is a patient at Southside Hospital. He is recovering from injuries sustained in a fall at his home.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Turner enroute from Charlottesville where he attended the Local Governing Officials Convention to their home in Collinsville spent Wednesday night here with Mr. and Mrs. Harry St. John.

The regular monthly meeting of The Ruritan Club will be held Friday night, September 10th, at the Pamplin Elementary School.

Mrs. B. L. Shelton has returned to her home from Virginia Baptist Hospital where she underwent surgery.

Mrs. W. A. Watson, Jr., of Farmville, spent last week end with Miss Merle Davis.

Little Leaguers Football Season Kick-Off 1971

T-Rebels Down Timberlake 34-0

Little League Foothall season officially got underway last Thursday night when the T-Rebels of Appomattox downed Timberlake 34-0 in a game played at Bragg Stadium at the Appomattox County High School Athletic Field.

No game is scheduled for the T-Rebels for this week end.

Coach for this team, boys aged 11 and 12, are Henry "Doe" Doss, Jack Layne, Bobby Chenault, Robert Allen Sears and Fred Weakley.

Congratulations T-Rebs, you are off to a great start.

Midgets Tie Brookville 0-0

The Appomattox Midgets, boys 9 and 10 years of age, opened their season of football in the Little League on Saturday morning at Brookville when they met Timberlake for their opener. The game ended in a scoreless tie, 0 to 0, in a hard-fought, hard-played game.

No game is on the schedule for the Midgets for this week end. Their coaches are John Thomas Paulette, Harry G. Lawson, Curtis Wooten, Murrell Ferguson and Billy Chenault.

Mites Lose Opener 20-6

The 8 year old Mites Football Team, playing at Brookville School on Saturday morning, lost their first game of the season to Timberlake with a final score of 20-6. These fine eight year olds fought hard and we feel sure things will be better for them in the future.

No game is scheduled for this week end, according to their Coaches and Assistants, Jimmy Mayberry, Donald Ferguson, Sam Ferguson, Jack Wayne Burks and Joe Foxwell.

Turkey Shoot

The Chestnut Mountain Hunt Club is holding a shooting match at Herndon's Store, each Saturday for five Saturdays (Sept. 18-Oct. 9).

VERA

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Deaner Jr. of Mississippi spent several days last week in the home of his father, Mr. W. T. Deaner, Sr. and sister, Janie.

Get well wishes go out to Mr. Robert Bryant who returned home last week from Lynchburg General Hospital.

Mrs. W. L. Amos visited her mother, Mrs. Phebe Heath Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Bessie Smith and Diane visited Janie Deaner Monday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Jenkins of Baltimore visited in the home of his mother, Mrs. Addie Jenkins and sister, Mrs. A. B. Abbitt Friday afternoon.

Mr. W. T. Deaner, Sr. spent Saturday night in Lynchburg with his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Edward Deaner and family.

Mrs. Robert Bryant is a patient in the Lynchburg General Hospital. Her friends wish a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs Paul C. Broyles and Mrs. A. E. Martin of Roanoke spent last Sunday in the home of Mr. Willie Brynat.

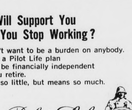
Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Williams, Michael and Sherri and Mrs. Dorothy Garrett visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Amos Sunday.

Those visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wade Ferguson over the week end were Mr. and Mrs. Haywood Ferguson of Chevy Chase, Maryland, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Brown of Gaithersburg, Maryland, Mr. and Mrs. Holmesy Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Ricky Ferguson, Judy and Jane, Mr. Kin Metts all of Lynchburg, Mr. and Mrs. Berkley Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Tucker Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Cyrus and Mrs. Dorothy Garrett all of Appomattox.

Get well wishes go out to Mrs. Brenda Gunter Smith who returned home last week from Southside Hospital, Farmville.

Team Winners In Golf Tourney

Early in April of 1971, plans were formulated and play got underway in the Golf League Team Members Tournament at the Falling River Country Club. There were 21 teams participating in this tourney in which play began in April and was completed on Sunday, August 29th. Pictured above from left to right are: J. D. Crance and G. F. Crance, first place winners in the tournament and James Paulette and his team-mate, T. T. Martin, Sr., second place winners. Trophies were awarded these four golfers on Monday, September 6th, at the end of the 1971 Annual Golf Tournament for members of the Falling River Country Club.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PEPSI-COLAS 8 16 OZ. BOTTLES Plus Deposit 59¢
Blackeye Peas SHOWBOAT - 40 OZ. CAN 29¢
Reynolds Wrap ALUMINUM FOIL Regular Roll 12" X 25' 2 FOR 59¢
TOILET TISSUE NORTHERN White & Ass't Colors 4 ROLL PKG. 39¢
GALA TOWELS 3 FOR $1.00 BIG ROLLS - Decorated
BREAD NEWTON HOLSUM Chicken Dinner Rolls 2 PKGS. 69¢
Cookies
FIRESIDE - CHOCOLATE CREAM SANDWICH - 1 LB. 8 OZ. PKG.
FIRESIDE - VANILLA CREME SANDWICH - 1 LB. 8 OZ. PKG. 39¢
FIRESIDE - LEMON CREME SANDWICH - 1 LB. 8 OZ. PKG.
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